

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
PECOS DIVISION**

|                                 |   |                       |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| <b>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</b> | ) |                       |
|                                 | ) |                       |
| <b>v.</b>                       | ) | <b>P-24-CR-48 (1)</b> |
|                                 | ) |                       |
| <b>WILLIE BEN LARA III</b>      | ) |                       |

**FINDINGS OF FACT AND RECOMMENDATION ON FELONY GUILTY  
PLEA BEFORE THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

The District Court referred this matter to the magistrate judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) for administration of guilty plea and allocution under Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024, this cause came before the undersigned U.S. Magistrate Judge for Guilty Plea and Allocution of the Defendant **WILLIE BEN LARA III** on Count **TWO** of the **INDICTMENT** filed herein charging him with a violation of Title 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(C) and Title 18 U.S.C. § 2. The Defendant signed a written consent to plead before the Magistrate Judge. The Court conducted the proceeding in the form and manner prescribed by FED. R. CRIM. P. 11, and finds:

a) That the Defendant, after consultation with counsel of record, has knowingly and voluntarily consented to the administration of the Guilty Plea and Allocution in this cause by a U.S. Magistrate Judge subject to final approval and imposition of sentence by the District Court.

b) That the Defendant pled guilty to **COUNT TWO** of the **INDICTMENT** without a written plea agreement. Any oral agreements were stated into the record by the parties.<sup>1 2</sup>

c) That the Defendant is fully competent and capable of entering an informed plea,<sup>3</sup> that the Defendant is aware of the nature of the charges and the consequences of the plea, and that the plea of guilty is a knowing and voluntary plea supported by an independent basis in fact containing each of the essential elements of the offense.

**IT IS THEREFORE**, the recommendation of the undersigned U.S. Magistrate Judge that the District Court accept the guilty plea of the Defendant **WILLIE BEN LARA III** and that **WILLIE BEN LARA III** be finally adjudged guilty of that offense.

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<sup>1</sup>There is an oral agreement that the Government will move to dismiss Count One at the time of sentencing.

<sup>2</sup>The parties orally agreed to amend Count Two of the Indictment to reflect that Fentanyl is a Schedule II controlled substance.

<sup>3</sup>The Defendant was admonished on as to punishment of up to 20 years imprisonment, a fine not to exceed \$1,000,000.00, a minimum term of 3 years supervised release, and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.00.

The United States District Clerk shall serve a copy of this Proposed Findings of Fact and Recommendation on all parties electronically. In the event that a party has not been served by the Clerk with this Report and Recommendation electronically, pursuant to the CM/ECF procedures of this District, the Clerk is ORDERED to mail such party a copy of this Report and Recommendation by certified mail, return receipt requested. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1), any party who desires to object to this report must serve and file written objections within fourteen (14) days after being served with a copy unless the time period is modified by the District Court. A party filing objections must specifically identify those findings, conclusions or recommendation to which objections are being made; the District Court need not consider frivolous, conclusive or general objections. Such party shall file the objections with the Clerk of the Court and serve the objections on the Magistrate Judge and on all other parties. A party's failure to file such objections to the proposed findings, conclusions and recommendation contained in this report shall bar the party from a de novo determination by the District Court. Additionally, any failure to file written objections to the proposed findings, conclusions and recommendation contained in this report within fourteen (14) days after being served with a copy shall bar the aggrieved party from appealing the factual findings of the Magistrate Judge that are accepted or adopted by the District Court, except upon grounds of plain error or manifest injustice.

SIGNED this 25th day of June, 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David B. Fannin", is written over a horizontal line.

DAVID B. FANNIN  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE